

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1-11, 16-31, and 36-49 have been rejected. Claims 12-15 and 32-35 were indicated as including patentable subject matter.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the Examiner Interview conducted via telephone on January 10, 2008 between Examiner Laneau, Jeremie Moll of WMS Gaming, and the undersigned.

This Statement of Substance of Interview in being submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.133(b), MPEP § 502.03 and § 713.01. This Statement of Substance of the Interview is being timely filed.

During the Interview, the parties discussed Nicastro, SR (U.S. 2003/0027619 A1) ("Nicastro") and the disclosed and claimed invention. During the Examiner Interview, the Examiner reiterated that 12-15 and 32-35 included patentable subject matter and further added that, if the claims were amended to recite the acts of enabling a second player selection of a second tile from among a plurality of tiles of a second row of the grid, detecting the second player selection of the second tile from the second row, and in response to the second player selection, causing the video reels to spin and stop to display a second outcome, and causing a second action associated with the second player selection, and awarding a second award to the player based on the second outcome, such amended claims would be allowable.

Accordingly, to expedite prosecution, Applicant is herein amending the independent claims to comport with the subject matter that the Examiner acknowledged was patentable during the Examiner Interview.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTION

Claims 1-11, 16-31, and 36-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nicastro, SR (U.S. 2003/0027619 A1)(“Nicastro”).

This rejection is respectfully submitted to be overcome by the instant amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is requested.

II. CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance, and action towards that end is earnestly solicited. If any matters may be resolved or clarified through another interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the number shown. Although no fees are believed due in connection with this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any necessary fees (except for payment of the issue fee), from Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000262USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 10, 2008

/William D. PEGG, Reg. # 42,988/

William D. Pegg
Reg. No. 42,988
Nixon Peabody LLP
161 North Clark Street
48th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 425-3900
Attorney for Applicant